

**REMARKS**

The objections to claims 7, 9 and 15 have been overcome by making the amendments suggested in the Action.

**The rejection of claims 1 to 16 as being obvious over Richman in view of Bentele and further in view of the Chatterjee is traversed.**

Independent claims 1 and 9 are directed to a method for analyzing the safety of a product in view of a safety incident associated with the product and prior safety incidents. The method provides a novel procedure for conducting an accident scenario review (ASR) that uses a template from an earlier ASR conducted for comparative prior safety incident associated with the product. The method updates the template of each ASR for each successive comparative safety event and generates at least one corrective action from each ASR. The applied prior art does not disclose a method for conducting ASRs and certainly does not discuss conducting an ASR based on an ASR template or updating the template with each ASR.

Richmann discloses a database programs for accident reports. The correction feature of the program allows changes to be made to correct data in the database. *See* Richmann, col. 5, lns. 44-58. Changing a database file to correct errors is not conducting an ASR and does not suggest tailoring an existing ASR template to conduct a subsequent ASR. The Richmann database stores accident reports. There is no suggestion in Richmann of modifying correct data regarding the accident reports. Rather, Richmann

teaches how to correct incorrect data in a database. The ASR templates recited in claim 1 and 19 do not have errors and are not in need of correction.

Further, the rejected claims relate to “conducting an accident scenario review.” Richmann relates to the database storage of accident reports. Richmann provides no suggestions or procedures for analyzing an accident, e.g., an ASR, or generating accident reports. As such, Richmann does not relate to the claimed invention.

Bentele discloses an automatic procedure for deploying an air bag. The procedure occurs before or during an accident, and cannot be considered a procedure for reviewing an accident. Contrary to the Action, the description in Bentele of different scenarios for triggering an air bag are not accident reviews and do not follow an ASR template selected from a prior ASR. The Bentele air bag triggering scenarios also do not or that update an ASR template for subsequent ASRs.

Chatterjee relates to accident predicative models (APMs) that are based on studies of multiple accidents. The APMs are not accident safety reviews, but may use reports of ASRs to generate a predictive model of accidents. Chatterjee teaches away from the current invention by teaching the use of APMs to develop safety corrective actions rather than developing such actions as part of the accident safety review. The difference between ASRs and APMs is evident from claim 5 that relates to incorporating an APM as part of an ASR.

The combination of Richman, Bentele and Chatterjee would not have rendered the claimed invention to have been obvious. It is not apparent why or how a person of

ordinary skill would have combined these references related to an accident database, airbag triggering events, and modeling accidents. The Action combines these references using the benefit of hindsight gained from this application. Without benefit of this application, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been directed to the current invention.

All claims are in good condition for allowance. If any small matter remains outstanding, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' attorney. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of this application is requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Account No. 14-1140.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By:           /Jeffry H. Nelson/            
Jeffry H. Nelson  
Reg. No. 30,481

JHN:glf  
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22203-1808  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100